



## American Citizen Services eNewsletter

December 2011

# Consular Officers Share Holiday Travel Tips

*From the State Department Bureau of Consular Affairs*

*We all know that the holiday season is peak travel time. Although airports will be crowded, that doesn't have to ruin your holiday travel experience. Whether you are packing your bags for the sunny beaches of the Caribbean or headed to the snowy slopes of Switzerland, we hope you will take advantage of the following tips to help make your holiday travels safe, smooth, and stress-free.*

- Enroll in STEP (*Smart Traveler Enrollment Program*)
- Apply early for your passport
- Once you receive your passport, sign it and fill in the emergency information
- Leave copies of itinerary, passport data page, and credit card
- Check your overseas medical insurance coverage
- Familiarize yourself with local conditions and laws
- Find the closest U.S. embassy or consulate
- Take precautions to avoid being a target of crime
- Contact us in an emergency

Read [more](http://www.travel.state.gov) about holiday travel tips at [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov).

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Smart  
Traveler  
Enrollment  
Program

All non-emergency ACS services (renewal of U.S. passports, Consular Reports of Birth Abroad, notariats, etc.) are provided by appointment **ONLY**.

Please follow [this link](#) to make an appointment with our staff.

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*In the event of an emergency involving an American citizen, please, call +40-21-200-3433*

For information about public hours, please visit <http://romania.usembassy.gov/acs/index.html>.





# TRAVEL.STATE.GOV

A SERVICE OF THE BUREAU OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS  
U.S. Department of State



*Planning to travel in Romania or outside? We recommend that you visit [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) to learn about travel warnings, travel alerts, country specific information, and more!*

## ENGAGE

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**STAY INFORMED. STAY CONNECTED. STAY**



## ROMANIA: Fun Facts

- Inhabited by the ancient **Dacians**, today's territory of Romania was conquered by the Roman Empire in 106, when Trajan's army defeated the army of Dacia's ruler Decebalus. The Romanian administration withdrew two centuries later, under the pressure of the Goths and Carpi.

- Petrache Poenaru** was a Romanian inventor, who went to France in 1826 and attended the Ecole Polytechnique in Paris. He was so busy taking notes and copying courses, that he invented writing tool which allowed him to save time. This was the **fountain pen**. In 1827, the Manufacture Department of the French Ministry of the Interior registered Poenaru's invention with the code number 3208 and the description "plume portable sans fin, qui s'alimente elle-meme avec de l'ancre" ("never-ending portable pen, which recharges itself with ink"). This invention prevented paper scratches, ink leaks and was made of replaceable parts.

- A high percentage (47% of the land area) of Romania is covered **with natural and semi-natural ecosystems**. Since almost half of all forests in Romania (13% of the country) have been managed for watershed conservation rather than production, Romania has one of the largest areas of undisturbed forest in Europe. The integrity of Romanian forest ecosystems is indicated by the presence of the full range of European forest fauna, including 60% and 40% of all European brown bears and wolves, respectively.

From [Wikipedia](#)





## **WE REMIND YOU...**



*From the Internet Crime Complaint Center*

*In advance of the holiday season, the FBI reminds shoppers to beware of cyber criminals and their aggressive and creative ways to steal money and personal information. Scammers use many techniques to fool potential victims including fraudulent auction sales, reshipping merchandise purchased with a stolen credit card, sale of fraudulent or stolen gift cards through auction sites at discounted prices, and phishing e-mails advertising brand name merchandise for bargain prices or e-mails promoting the sale of merchandise that ends up being a counterfeit product.*

### **Here are some tips you can use to avoid becoming a victim of cyber fraud:**

- Do not respond to unsolicited (spam) e-mail.
- Do not click on links contained within an unsolicited e-mail.
- Be cautious of e-mail claiming to contain pictures in attached files, as the files may contain viruses. Only open attachments from known senders. Always run a virus scan on attachment before opening.
- Avoid filling out forms contained in e-mail messages that ask for personal information.
- Always compare the link in the e-mail to the web address link you are directed to and determine if they match.
- Log on directly to the official Web site for the business identified in the e-mail, instead of "linking" to it from an unsolicited e-mail. If the e-mail appears to be from your bank, credit card issuer, or other company you deal with frequently, your statements or official correspondence from the business will provide the proper contact information.
- Contact the actual business that supposedly sent the e-mail to verify that the e-mail is genuine.
- If you are requested to act quickly or there is an emergency, it may be a scam. Fraudsters create a sense of urgency to get you to act impulsively.
- If you receive a request for personal information from a business or financial institution, always look up the main contact information for the requesting company on an independent source (phone book, trusted internet directory, legitimate billing statement, etc.) and use that contact information to verify the legitimacy of the request.
- Remember if it looks too good to be true, it probably is.

*To receive the latest information about cyber scams, please go to the FBI Web site and sign up for e-mail alerts by clicking on one of the red envelopes. If you have received a scam e-mail, please notify the IC3 by filing a complaint at [www.ic3.gov](http://www.ic3.gov). For more information on e-scams, please visit the FBI's New E-Scams and Warnings webpage at <http://www.fbi.gov/cyberinvest/escams.htm>.*

*We wish you a joyful holiday season and a happy and prosperous New Year!*

In 2012, the Embassy will be closed on January 2, January 16, February 20, April 16, May 1, May 28, June 4, July 4, August 15, September 3, October 8, November 12, November 22, December 25 and December 26 in observance of U.S. and Romanian official holidays and for administrative reasons.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:**

***I am temporary visiting Romania and I need to see a medical professional. Can you recommend one?***

The U.S. Embassy cannot recommend a particular physician. Travelers seeking medical treatment in Romania may review a [list of hospitals and physicians](#) available on the website of the [U.S. Embassy in Bucharest](#). Please remember that medical care in Romania is generally not up to Western standards, and basic medical supplies are limited, especially outside of major cities. Some medical providers that meet Western quality standards are, however, available in Bucharest and other cities. Therefore, we recommend that travelers choose their medical provider carefully. Please note that the U.S. Embassy in Bucharest assumes no responsibility or liability for the professional ability or reputation of, or the quality of services provided by the medical professionals, medical facilities or air ambulance services whose names appear on the [list of hospitals and physicians](#).

Please let us know if you have any questions. Our email is [ACSBucharest@state.gov](mailto:ACSBucharest@state.gov).

